

2008-2



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**JOURNAL OF THE SHIPS-IN-BOTTLES  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA INC.**

# The Bottle Shipwright

**DO NOT SEND CASH. SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER** Ships-in-Bottles Association of America. Production and mailing are handled by unpaid volunteer members of the association. The journal is published quarterly and is dedicated to the promotion of the traditional nautical art of building ships in bottles.

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**DEADLINE for submission is the second month of each quarter.**

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FROM THE MEMBERS  
BOOK REVIEWS

## APPLICATION FORM

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please briefly indicate your interest and experience with bottled ships: \_\_\_\_\_

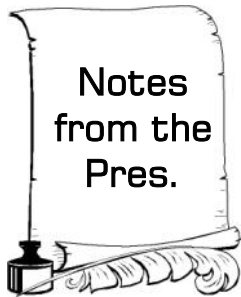
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Current due are \$25.00 in U.S. currency,  
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Please send to:

**Don Hubbard, Membership Chairman**  
**P.O. Box 180550,**  
**Coronado, CA 92178-0550**



Well, it took a Vitamin B-12 shot but my energy is finally returning! That long three week bout of coughing earlier in the year sure zapped my energy for a long time. Thanks to members who sent in photos, articles, SIB limericks, cartoons and even new ship plans! All are greatly appreciated and make our job so much easier! Keep those coming in - we love getting them. Also PLEASE put your name on the back of each photo as sometimes they get separated from their mailing envelope and then they become mystery photos. I have a few of those here regrettably. The photos are slippery and slide out when the pile of material stacks up a bit. BTW, please note the name of the ship or project on the back of each photo too. I'm looking for a volunteer from among our SIBAA members who would be willing to put together a conference for our association. Planning this takes time I never seem to find, and we're really overdue for one. There is no money in the SIBAA budget to pay for room rentals or table rentals really (unless rates are really bargain basement) so facilities would need to be donated for our use. Hotels for our members would need easy transport to and from the conference since some may not rent a car. The facility would need to be secure if SIBs are left overnight. I can send more info on what needs to be considered if any of you are interested in putting something like this together. As for timing for a conference we would need to plan months in advance allowing the info to be posted in at least ONE if not TWO of our quarterly Bottle Shipwright magazines. This would save a lot on postage and give the event more exposure. Thanks to one of our members, Bill Sheridan, we now have a regular TOOLS AND TIPS section in some of our issues. Bill has been revamping the best from past issues and editing the graphics to make them nice and sharp. If any of you want to send in new ideas, tips or tool ideas for that, I'll be sure to pass those on to him. The drawings don't need to be perfect, just understandable and something we can work with. John Fox III just sent in hand drawn plans for 7 ships and they look SUPER. Those will be spread over several issues. I'm still trying to post some of the best COLOR photos from each magazine at the [www.shipsinbottles.org](http://www.shipsinbottles.org) website. There is also an alternate version of this 2008-2 cover showing the color logos from each of the SIB organizations around the world. Some of these logos were just recently updated so be sure to take a look!

# TOOLS AND TIPS

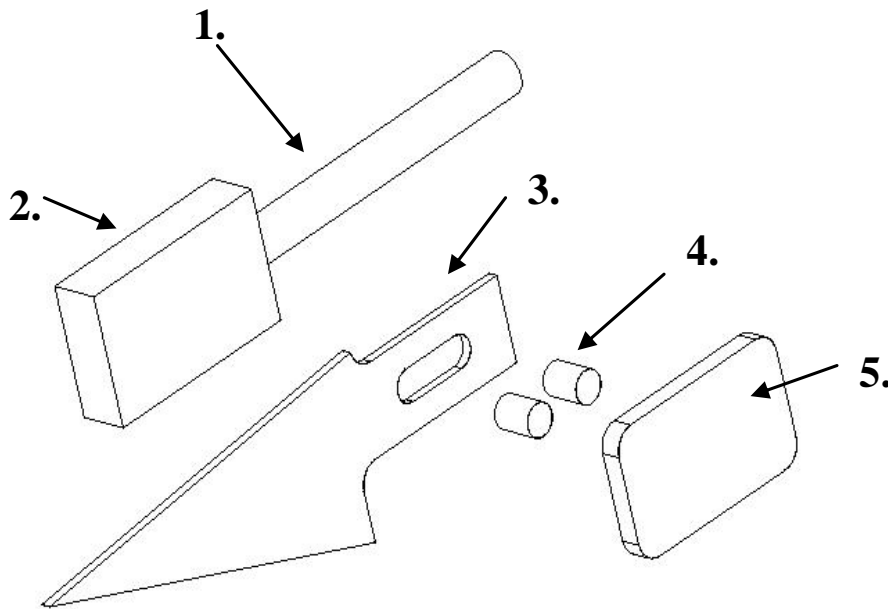
*Re-published articles edited by Bill Sheridan*

Original Tool Article: **Rigging Cutter Tool**

Author: **Jack Hinkley**

First Published: **The Bottle Shipwright Issue 1997-1**

My experience with cutting rigging thread after the ship is in the bottle with a piece of razor blade attached to a stick has sometimes made me wish for a better way to get the job done. Recently, while working with a High School student on creating a ship in a bottle for her senior project, I devised the simple tool as shown below, which I feel is an improvement over the razor blade technique.



I used a bamboo skewer and a #11 X-Acto knife blade. The haft of the blade is  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide. At one end of the bamboo skewer (1.), I measured back  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch and cut half way into the skewer and removed the top half. On each side of the lower half I glued a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch piece of wood creating a small flat area at the end of the skewer (2.), which would hold the haft of the knife blade. After the glue had dried, I glued the X-Acto blade (3.) to the flat area using Elmer's glue to hold it in place temporarily until the other work was completed. Through the hole in the haft of the blade, I inserted two short sections of medical throat swab (4.) and glued them together to the wooden base below. I made these throat swab sections large enough to handle them comfortably and then sanded them down to the level of the knife blade. Over the top of the throat swabs, I glued a small flat piece of wood (5.), which is larger than the holes in the knife blade and would hold it firmly in place. To finish up, I sanded the blade holding section smooth and flush to the width of the knife haft. This tool worked very well for my student and will for me in the future.

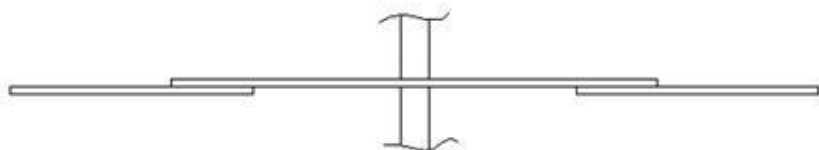
First Published: **The Bottle Shipwright 1998-2**

Here is an easy method to make stunsails or bonnets. Make two similar yards for mounting to the mast in which you desire the stunsails. Cut one of the yards in half to make two booms, and then mount the other yard to the mast. Glue the booms to the underside of the mounted yard by 1/3 their length, having 2/3 run out as shown in figure 1. Make the stunsail and mount it to a small yard as shown in figure 2. The sail is then lashed to the boom as shown in figure 3 along with a dab of

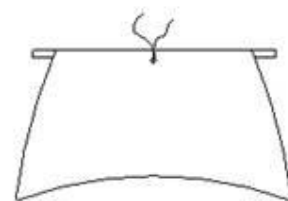
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Original Tip Article: **Bonnets or Stunsails**

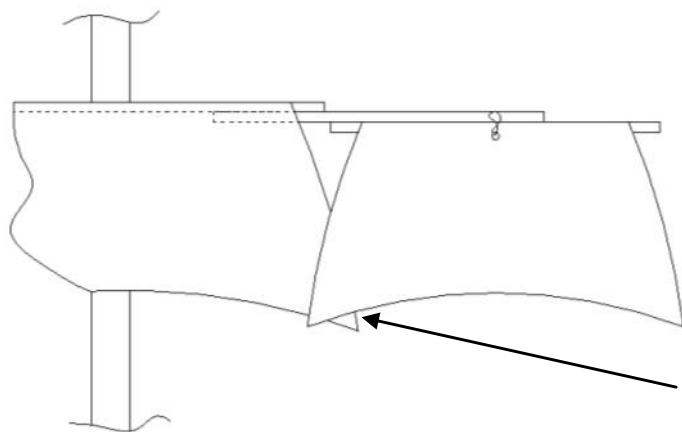
Author: **Don Bradley** glue to secure it.



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

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Original Tip Article: **Making Color Flags Using Word or PowerPoint**

Author: **Bill Sheridan**

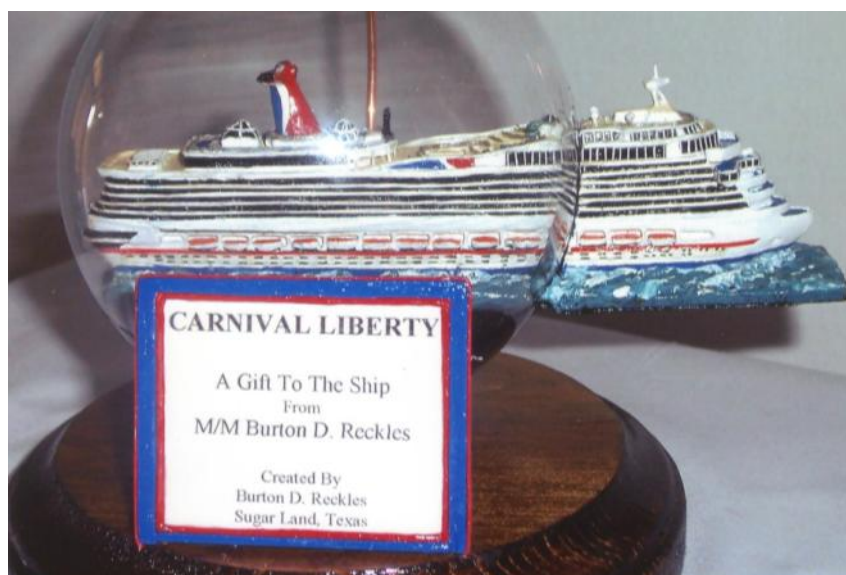
First Published: **New Idea Not Published Before**

To make tiny flags, go to web site [www.flags.net/mainindex.htm](http://www.flags.net/mainindex.htm). It has a directory of every flag imaginable. Hit the **Ctrl>Shift>Print Screen** keys on your keyboard “**at the same time**” and then paste the picture of your flag into a Word document. You can use **View >Tool Bars >Picture** options to crop the flag, re-size it and then print it in color.

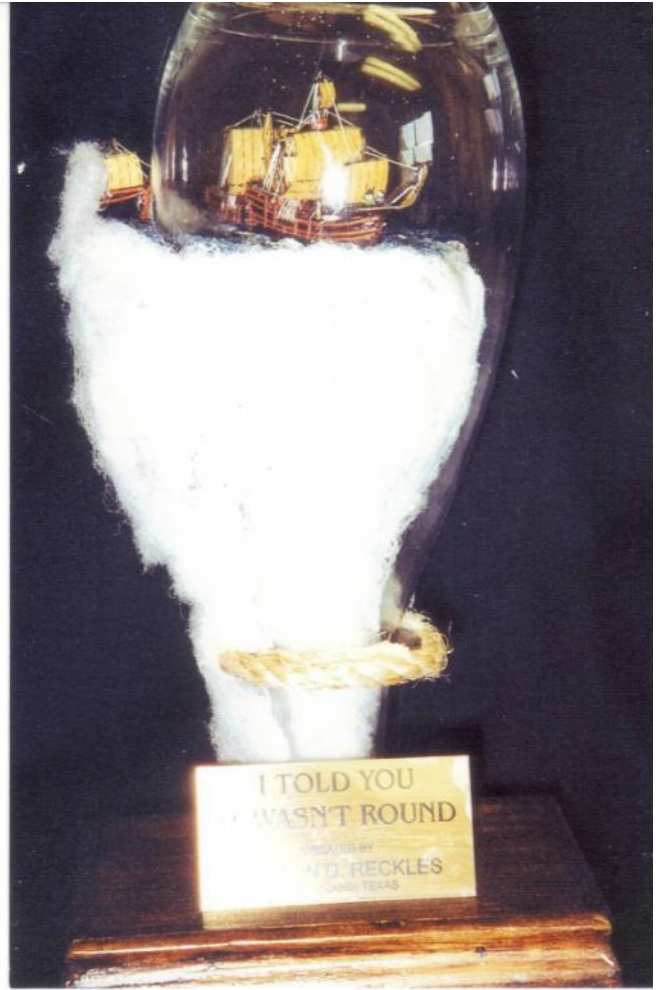




## **Ships-in-(and through) Bottles by Burt Reckles**







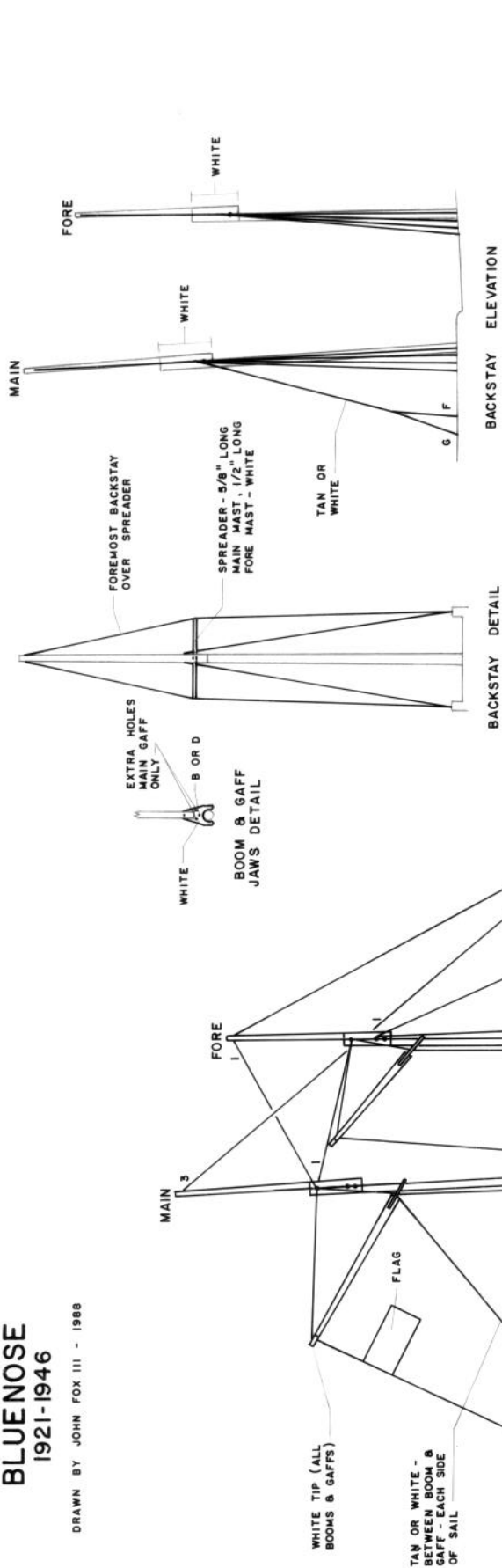
To say Burt Reckles has a style all his own would be putting it mildly. His ship projects are unique. Most ship bottlers put their ships INTO the bottles and he puts his THROUGH them. The two photos above are of his project named 'I TOLD YOU IT WASN'T ROUND'. As a board member of the Houston Maritime Museum he became fascinated with a poster at the Museum depicting Columbus' sailing off the end of the



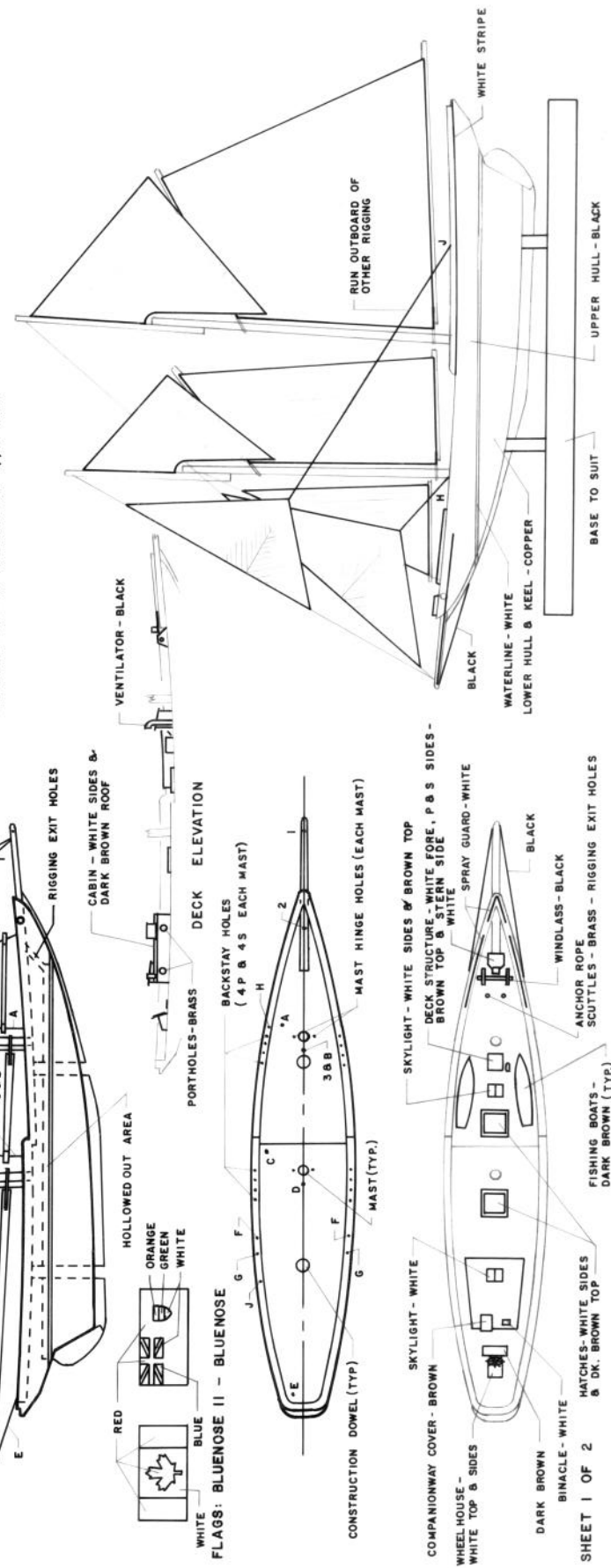
earth. Since some of his pieces lend themselves to whimsy, he decided to reproduce the poster in a bottle. The piece was entered in a competition sponsored by the Houston Contemporary Craft Museum and was chosen for inclusion in a traveling show that visited the art museums of several other Texas cities. The project to the left, 'M/S TIKHI DON' depicts the ship emerging from the river's morning mist and was made as a gift to the vessel.

# NOVA SCOTIA FISHING SCHOONER BLUENOSE 1921-1946

DRAWN BY JOHN FOX III - 1988



NOTES: All numbered rigging and all backstays are black. All lettered rigging is tan or white. All masts, booms, gaffs, bowsprit and deck surfaces are natural wood, except as noted. Inside and top of bulwarks is white. All holes shown on plan views go through to hollowed area in underside of upper hull.



FLAGS: BLUENOSE II - BLUENOSE

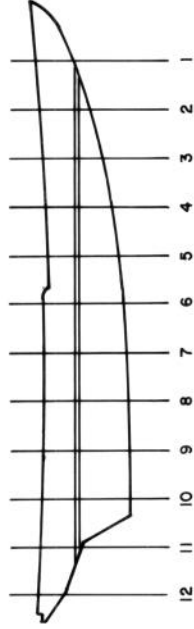
SHEET 1 OF 2



# NOVA SCOTIA FISHING SCHOONER

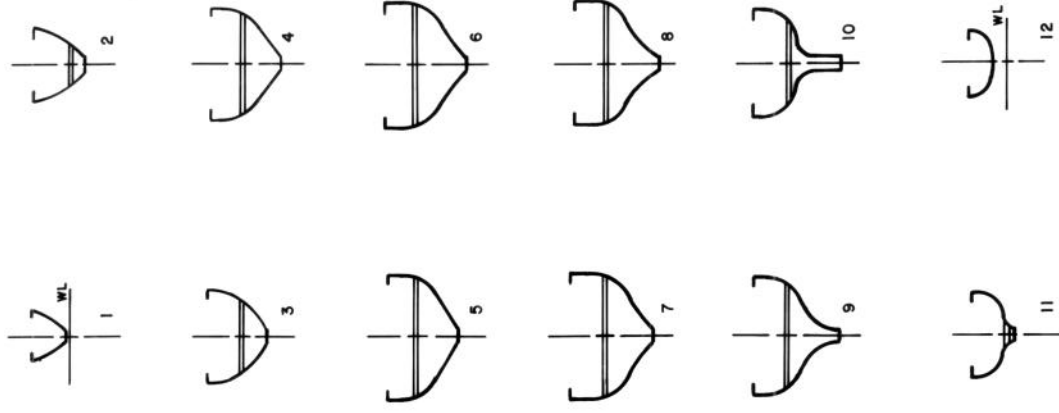
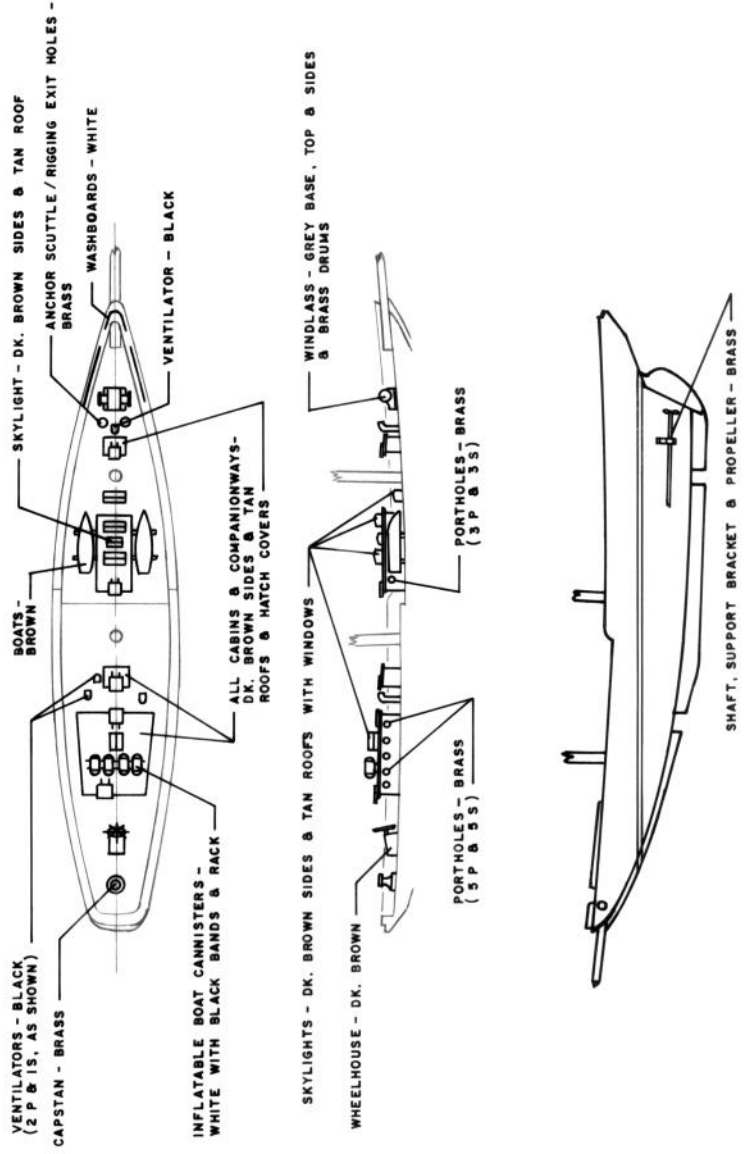
## BLUENOSE 1921-1946

DRAWN BY JOHN FOX III - 1988



## BLUENOSE II 1963 -

MASTS, BOOMS, GAFFS, SAILS, RIGGING & HULL  
SAME AS BLUENOSE



## HULL SECTIONS



## Donald Pearson

Tucked away in his comfortable workshop in Deephaven, Minnesota, you will find Donald Pearson working on his lifetime hobby of putting ships in bottles.

As one enters the shop, Miniature Marine, you will notice all types of small sailing ships, from sloops to four-masted ships and clippers in various stages of construction. You will also note the neatness and precise placement of hundreds of homemade fine tools ready for instant use when required. On shelves nearby there are neat stacks of different sizes of wood drying for future models along with many special tools and fixtures. On other shelves there are beautiful glass bottles Don had made for his ships by a glassblower in Colorado. Don has a place for everything and everything seems to be in its place. The shop itself has a nautical air about it with photos, plans, models for repair, cleaning and restoration, mixed in with ship in bottle models.

Don's background has all the right combinations for a hobby such as this. He grew up in Connecticut, moved to Chappaqua, New York where he spent most of his school years. As a young boy, most of his summer months were spent on his Grandparents farm in Connecticut. While there, his grandfather, a retired sea captain with seven trips around the Horn, told many sea stories and got Don started making ship models, carving, fancy rope work and net making. It was there at the early age of eleven that Don made his first ship in a bottle model.

In later years, Don spent some time sailing to Nova Scotia with his Grandfather on an old yawl and also racing Internationals and Lightnings on Long Island Sound. All this added to his firsthand knowledge of the sea and ships.

Along with model making, Don enjoyed pen and ink sketching and painting with water colors, most of which of a nautical nature or sailing ships. In high school he won many blue ribbons in the Westchester County art shows. Don also met and became friends with the marine artist, Gordon Grant. He gave Don many helpful hints and suggestions. Grant, not only as an artist but also as a person, inspired Don. One might notice Grants techniques in Dons work.

Another person that Don was in contact with was Alan Villiers, the author of many great books on deep water sailing ships. Don asked what the best way there was to keep up the tradition of model making. Villiers reply was to study the ship well, know every detail of how she worked and was constructed, and then make the model to the best of your ability. Don must have taken him seriously because the workmanship is very fine and detailed. With one look at the real looking models you can see the pride Don puts in his work.

The models are all made from scratch and from existing plans of the actual ship when available. The plans are usually redrawn as required, then reduced photographically to the exact scale of the actual model that can range anywhere from  $.028'' = 1'$  to  $.120'' = 1'$ . The scale of the model depends on the type of the ship and bottle configuration. Don likes to get as much ship in the bottle as possible.

The materials are the best available. Hardwood such as holly and apple are used for the hull, boxwood and lemon for the spars, and aluminum tubing for modern racing boats. Sails are made of various types of paper ranging from watermarked rag bond to thin rice paper. The water is a UV protected epoxy that takes color well, has zero shrinkage, and will not crack or absorb moisture. The model itself is mounted on a special insert that in turn is mounted to the bottom of the bottle with epoxy. The top of the insert has a female dovetail that accepts the male dovetail



mounted to the underside of the hull. When properly positioned together, a hole lining up the male and female sections is pinned to insure permanent location. The underside of this insert is visible when rotating the bottle showing the name of the ship, date built, built by Don Pearson, model number and if requested, and a few words may be added if given as a gift. The models themselves are very realistic looking in water that looks like the ocean. The bottle is mounted on a cradle cushioned with felt, mounted on a hardwood base of either cherry or walnut and hand rubbed. In the one corner is a solid brass engraved plate.

All the models are made the way the sailors did long ago, however Don has developed many new techniques and methods with various tools that permit him to be more exacting in the final product.

Over the years Don has had many articles written by both local and national newspapers and has appeared on television several times. He has donated two models to Mystic Seaport, Connecticut over the years. His most recent contribution is to Mike Plant, the solo sailor in the Globe Challenge representing the United States on the 60-foot sloop DURACELL. Mike also comes from Deephaven, Minnesota, about a mile from Don's shop. Don feels like it is a small token compared to what Mike gave and also to sailing.

To date Don has completed 209 ship in bottle models, Mike's being number 210. Most of these models are sitting on someone's desk or mantel top around the country. Don works on models that people commission him to build, either private sailing yacht or an old timer. The trend in the last few years is about 80 percent being private yachts, while the balance might be someone's favorite, a model used as a trophy at a yacht club or one given as a gift.

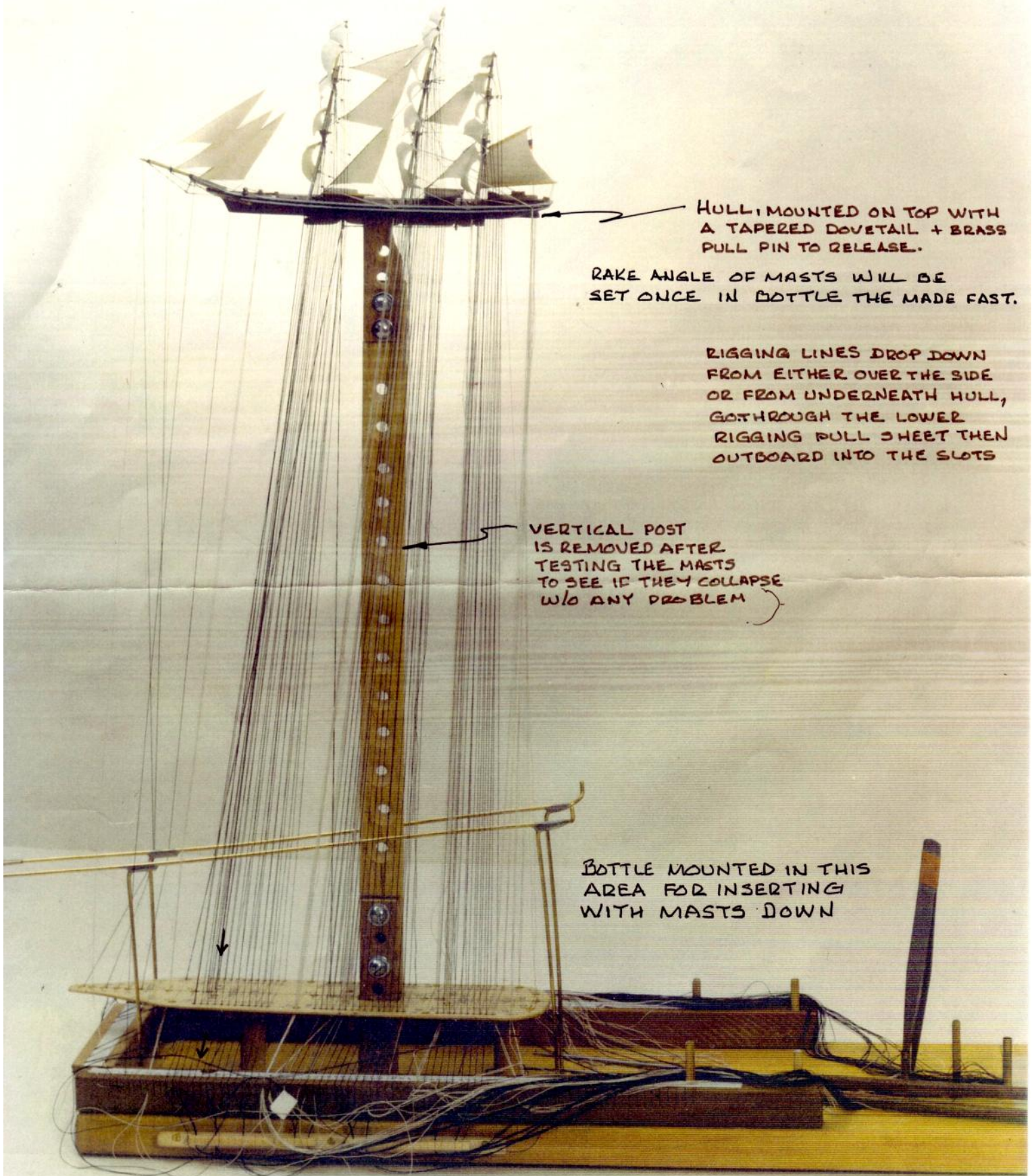
When completed, the model is a splendid piece of art and workmanship. Along with the model is a small folder containing numerous photos of the ship at different stages of construction, sketches, plans of the model and a letter of authenticity and valuation. This makes for great conversation!

Although this is still a hobby for Don at present, it looks as though it might turn into a full time business due to the demand. Currently his backlog is out almost two years and growing. Asked if he would mind doing it full time, Don's answer "It would be great". Most of his present customers end up as personal friends and personal salesmen. Where else could this happen.

People interested in learning more about this art or craft are welcomed to contact Don either by phone (952-475-2831) or write to 3715 Laurel Drive, Deephaven, Minnesota, 55391.

Written by Kris Nelson





" CUTTY SARK " MODEL # 101 - SCALE .029" = 1'





Gérard Breillat, President of the French Association of Ships-in-Bottles, sent in the pictures below of the Theodore II tugboat in a lightbulb he made using Joe Barr's plans featured in one of our magazines last year. He made this project for the daughter of his niece for her birthday.



Alan Rogers, editor of the European Association of Ships-in-Bottles, sent in the photo shown below of one of his latest projects, the clipper ship WAITARA. Alan made this model for his friend Dave, who helped set up a computer for his mother. The Waitara sank off Portland, UK, where his friend used to do a lot of diving years ago. Alan used an interesting technique for the white portbands along the side of the ship. He had his daughter print these out on sticky vinyl - very effective and easier than tediously hand painting those.





# NOW HEAR THIS!

Our volunteer archivist Bob Little of Port Hueneme, California has done an astonishing and valuable thing.

**AVAILABLE NOW:** the first 80 issues of *Bottle Shipwright* completely archived on a self-loading compact disk. This includes all back issues from 1983 through 2002. Any page of any issue can be selected and viewed, and the comprehensive index lets you pick the subject, whether plans, instruction, new techniques and materials, or general reference information.

Anyone with a computer with a CD drive will be able to read, enjoy and download articles from this self-loading disk.

As you know, *Bottle Shipwright* is not written by one person, but by builders who submit articles from all over the world. This is why this archive is so valuable. The variety of ship-in-bottle information is staggering. An invaluable reference. We have been getting **VERY GOOD** feedback on this disk.

The disk, in a durable case, is available to members of the Ships-In-Bottles Association of America for \$40.00 which includes shipping. Non-members can obtain the disk for \$65.00 which includes one year membership in the Association.

Net proceeds from this CD go to help the S.I.B.A.A.



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# THE SHIPS-IN-BOTTLES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The **Ships-In-Bottles Association of America (S.I.B.A.A.)** is one of several affiliated ships-in-bottles associations throughout the world. All share the common goals of promoting the traditional nautical art of building ships-in-bottles through the exchange of ideas, and the hope of advancing the cause of international good will by sharing mutual interests.

While our title indicates that we are an American organization, we have members as far afield as New Zealand, Australia, India, Japan, many European countries, as well as throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Our Journal, **THE BOTTLE SHIPWRIGHT**, is published quarterly and introduces ideas of ship-bottling submitted by our diverse and talented membership. The Journal also contains news of our bi-annual conferences in various parts of the country, competitions and exhibits, articles about bottling ships, photos of member's works, modeling plans and other material related to the art. As a result of the Association many members correspond with one another throughout the world and many new and close friendships have been formed.

APPLICATION FORM

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Please briefly indicate your interest and experience with bottled ships: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Ketch by Don Hubbard - circa 1988

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